### Charting a course to



**Clarity** 



## Water Quality Crediting Program Design Project Purpose

- Develop a meaningful and trackable unit of credit linking projects, maintenance, and other activities to expected pollutant reductions
- Design operational protocols for a crediting program
- Define a consistent accounting mechanism for pollutant load reductions

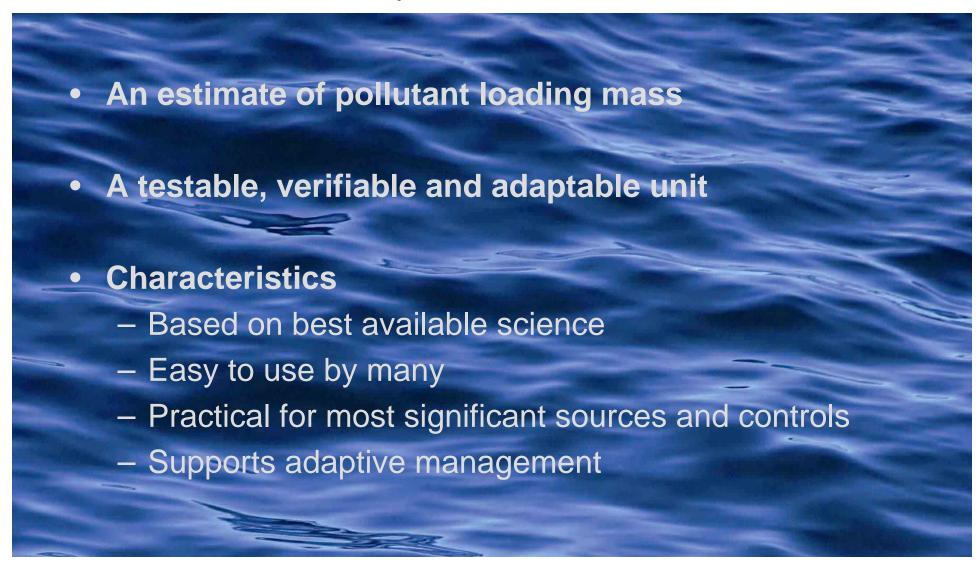
#### Water Quality Crediting Program Team

 Project Team develops products Environmental Incentives Kieser & Associates TMDL Advisors direct production & integrate - Lahontan, NDEP & TRPA **Project Advisory Committee provide review &** guidance National experts on crediting & trading programs CA, NV & Tahoe specific policy experts

#### Water Quality Crediting Program Approach

- Assess Tahoe need and analogous programs
  - Complete
- Develop a consistent and robust credit & define appropriate uses
  - Current through summer
- Establish Program guidelines, roles & protocols
  - Summer and fall
- Related projects develop tools
  - Tracking
  - Verification & assessment

#### What is a Water Quality Credit?



#### Water Quality Credit Uses General

- Estimate individual project benefits & compare to RSWMP monitoring results
- Prioritize projects in programmatic planning
- Track and report project & programmatic accomplishments

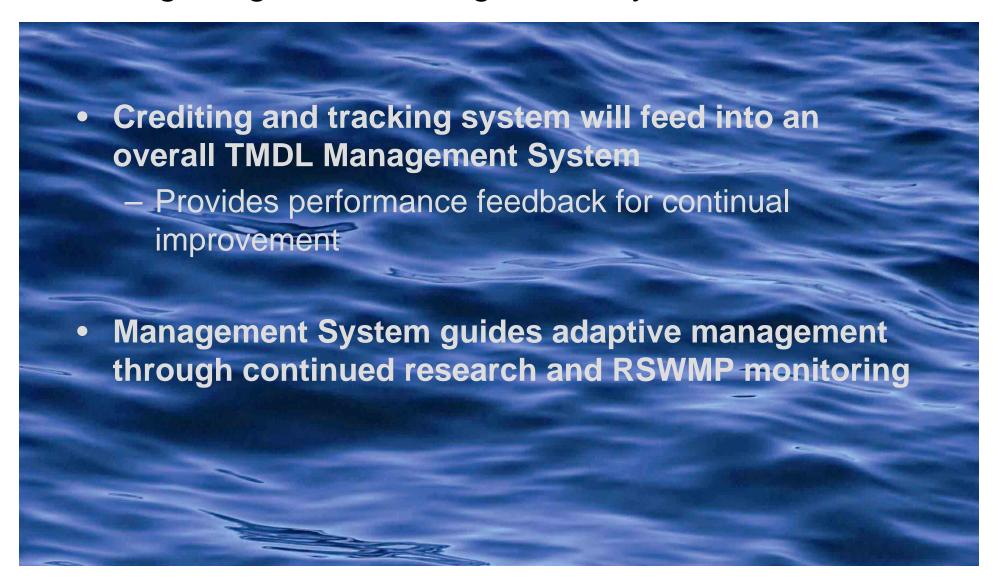
# Water Quality Credit Uses TMDL Specific

 Account for pollutant reductions with respect to TMDL load reduction milestones & NPDES permits Enable geographic flexibility in achieving load reductions & permit compliance

#### Monitoring & Verification

- Monitor representative projects and actions for credit verification
- Compare expected pollutant reductions with measured reductions - adaptive management
- Develop rapid field verification techniques
  - Verify project constructed as planned
  - Determine if performing or needing maintenance

#### Crediting Program & Management System



#### TMDL Crediting and Tracking Program Timeline

